Applegate Valley Historical Society
15050 Hwy 238
CPO Box 3122
Applegate, Oregon 97530

November 2005 Newsletter

Hope everyone is enjoying the fall season. Things are coming to a close for this year at the museum. There is some work to be done to winterize the building. May Ellen's tried to keep up with the leaves outside but they never seem to end. Some of the flowers in front of the carriage gates will come out so that a person can see the gates next spring.

It is with sadden heart to inform you of the passing of a lifetime Applegate Valley resident, Fred Straube left our world on November 1, 2005. Our condolences go out to his family. Fred had contributed to some newsletters this last year.

It is time for the annual membership renewal. Enclosed is a form to fill out and return.

At our next meeting we will be electing officers and board for the coming year. The current slat of officers and board has agreed to serve again with the exception of the position of vice president. If you're interested come to the meeting on Saturday November 19th at 10:00 A.M. at the Museum.
They are: President: Alice Matheny; Vice President: _____;
Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Niedermeyer; Board: John Black, Steve Decker, Isabel Goode and Margaret Stafford.

With the change of weather and less to do outside, it will give you a chance to compile something for future newsletters. Anything to do with the past times of the Applegate Valley would be great. Submit them to the PO Box. Thanks !!

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Next meeting **November 19th at 10:00 A.M. at the Museum.** Remember to bring your chair.

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
PULITZER AWARD 1934
Section C MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 1973 Pages 1 to 12

Century Farm Owners Look Ahead

By Maude Zeigler
Mail Tribune Correspondent

APPLEGATE — Lewis and Helen Buckley, long-time residents and owners of a Century Farm, have paused in their daily living to look in many directions.

Through yellowed records, family mementoes, photographs and rich memories of their own, they are looking in retrospect more than 100 years to the time Lewis' grandfather, James D. Buckley, came to the United States in 1850 from County Cork, Ireland.

By 1862, he and his brother, John F. Buckley, had a land grant for 350 acres, comprising the present well-known Buckley Ranch in the Applegate, and much more that has been sold off in the intervening years.

Lewis and Helen are looking now to a new aspect of their 27 years of marriage. They sold 155 acres in February to Ray Offord, Medford, and are joining the ranks of the retired on the 20 acres they reserved. Helen expects to get a degree in sociology, and plans to enter Southern Oregon College this fall. Lewis expresses anticipation about the 20 acres he has reserved and says he still has some calves on pasture and will "dabble" in farming.

Had Many Experiences

The Buckleys can look back to many experiences. Lewis received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Portland in 1937. he served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and was sent to France, Italy and Africa. More recently, Universal Studios filmed part of the "Great Northfield, Minnesota Raid" on their property.

Helen came to Oregon from Wisconsin with her parents, Paul and Juliane Omann in 1929.

The present old Buckley home was built in 1874, after the original house burned.

The bride of that first home was Margaret (Maggie) Reiley Buckley, who also came from County Cork, Ireland, at the age of 10. She attended St. Mary's Academy in Jacksonville.

She and her husband, James, reared six children — Dave, John, George, James, Rose and Katherine. James and George married and had separate homes on the place, the others continued to live in the original home. Katherine became a registered nurse and served in France in World War I as a psychiatrist. For many years when there was illness in the Applegate Valley community, worried families knew the first thing to do was to call "Kate" Buckley.

Lewis and Helen have lived for six years in a home they built off Upper Applegate Road, south of Sunshine Village.

Old Rails In Fence

They used old rails split by Lewis's grandfather for front fencing. Coming into their living room you see old, old treasures handed down from the past — a sturdy oak library table, a mellowed green velvet photo album, a white linen towel with long fringed ends covering a small antique table. There are kerosene lamp sets, two white porcelain dogs, an old organ, and blue china vases.

Helen takes delight in owning a lace tablecloth which was in Grandmother Buckley's hope chest.

The Lewis Buckleys have reared three children adopted in infancy — Jim, Mary and Anna. All are graduates of Medford High School.

They say the Buckley holdings have been "chipped off" through the years for new developments. The Drake School, now Ruch, was established on the first donation from the Buckley property. In the last decade, the athletic field at Ruch School was purchased from them. Sunshine Village stands on what was once part of the farm, as does Cantrall-Buckley Park.

Bits of intriguing history intersperse the story of the Buckleys.

Helped Build Catholic Church

Lewis's grandfather walked to Jacksonville, packing his bedroll, to help build the Catholic Church. The trip was made at the time of the Martin Angel murder by Indians but it is said Buckley was not a target because he did not carry a gun.

Buckley mined on Forest Creek (then known as Jack Ass) and among the old family documents is his mining deed of 1863.

The Buckley family is related to prominent early day residents of Jackson County including the late Judge Herbert Hanna, whose wife, Leona, was a sister of Lewis Buckley's mother. The McAndrew family, for whom McAndrews Road in Medford is named, were cousins.

The old home is owned now by the Offords, who have put 99 head of cattle on the ranch pastures and have developed a fish pond from a spring on the ranch. Activities on the ranch are being supervised by the Offord's son, Gene.

The Buckleys said they had hoped to use the old home for a display of their treasured relics, but the possibility of vandalism made this impractical.

The old Buckley Ranch home in the Applegate was built in 1874 after the original house on the property acquired by James D. Buckley in 1862, burned. The Buckley Ranch is one of Oregon's Century Farms and part of the original 350 acres is owned by Buckley's grandson, Lewis Buckley. The old house was purchased by Ray Offord in February. Lewis Buckley and his wife, Helen, retained 20 acres.

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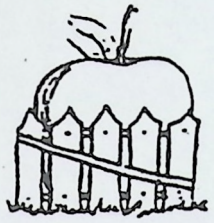

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

This part is your receipt. Thank you for being part of the society. Your dues will be up again in November of next year, you will be sent a reminder.
Costs: 1 person $10.00 ; 2 people $15.00 ; family $20.00.
Watch for our newsletter every other month.

Members name:_____

additional family:_____

Address:_____

Amount paid $_____ Date paid _____

AVHS Membership

Please return this portion with your check. Thank you.
1 person $10.00 _____ 2 people $15.00 _____ family $20.00 _____
Enclosed is my check for $_____ payable to Applegate Valley Historical Society.
PLEASE PRINT

Members name:_____

additional family,_____

Address:_____

_____

Phone:_____ Date paid_____